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In re Patent Application of:

Inventors: Charles K. SNODGRASS et al.

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Serial No.: 08/619,274

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Title: Data Communication Method Using Identification
Protocol

Attorney docket no.: 92-165.4

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

June 25, 1996

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please enter the following amendments before examining the above-identified patent

application.

In the Claims

Please cancel claim 1.

Please insert the following new claims 24–76:

1 24. A method for one of a plurality of responder transceivers to respond to interrogation messages

2 from two or more commander transceivers, wherein the responder is characterized by an address,

3 and wherein each of the interrogation messages specifies a set of one or more addresses for response,

4 comprising the steps of:

5 (a) upon receiving a first interrogation message from a first one of the commander

6 transceivers, said one responder transceiver determining whether the first interrogation message

7 specifies for response a set of one or more addresses which includes the responder's address, and

8 (1) if so, then said responder transceiver transmitting a response message to the first

9 commander transceiver, otherwise

10 (2) if not, then said responder transceiver initiating a waiting period of time during

11 which the responder will not transmit a response message to any subsequent interrogation message

12 which the responder may receive from any other one of the commander transceivers, wherein the

13 waiting period is great enough that any response message transmitted by the responder after the

14 waiting period would not collide with any response message transmitted by any other one of the

15 responder transceivers in response to said first interrogation message; and

16 (b) upon receiving a second interrogation message from a second one of the commander

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